

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JAMES ELI
CROWTHER

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel James Eli Crowther, a distinguished officer who served his country and his home state of Pennsylvania throughout his life. As a native of Tyrone, the Colonel was the third Burgess (Mayor) of Tyrone and was serving in that capacity as the American Civil War began.

Colonel Crowther served the Pennsylvania militia in the mid 1800's, where he was commissioned as a First Lieutenant in the Washington Infantry in early August of 1842. From there he was again commissioned as a First Lieutenant for the Tyrone Artillery in early July of 1858. Less than one year later he began service as the Captain of the Tyrone Cavalry. His command of that Cavalry was influential during the first 90 days of service at the beginning of the American Civil War. The Cavalry then became Company D of the 14th Pennsylvania Infantry.

Crowther volunteered as an Officer through the Civil War, commissioned as Lieutenant Colonel in 1861 and then Colonel in March of 1863. It was less than 2 months later that Colonel James E. Crowther was killed in action at Chancellorsville on May 3, 1863.

His service to his country was noble, and his rank was earned through hard work and dedication to American principles and values. The leadership that Colonel Crowther displayed throughout his service and lifetime is to be remembered and respected as our country continues to move forward honoring those values.

In his memory, the Colonel Crowther Foundation was established. This organization's intent is to protect, teach and re-live the rich and storied history of Pennsylvania and continue to honor the distinguished Colonel. As can be found in their mission statement, the Foundation strives to 'create a living heritage environment where preservation is enhanced by demonstration and education.' It is only through our history that we are able to create a future.

As a tribute to this man's great accomplishments the Tyrone Borough Council has declared Saturday August 6th, 2006 to be Colonel Crowther Day. Crowther's military service to the state of Pennsylvania and our country will not be forgotten.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CRAIG
HARRIS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Craig Harris for his outstanding efforts as a taxicab driver safety advocate. Craig passed away on Wednesday, June 21, 2006 at the age of 56.

Craig had been a Las Vegas resident for 28 years and a taxi driver for Yellow-Checker-Star Transportation since 1979. Having been

assaulted and robbed twice by passengers, Craig fully understood the dangers of driving a taxi. A long-time advocate of taxi driver safety, Craig was one of the first to test still cameras in taxis as a deterrent against attacks on drivers. According to his long-time boss and Yellow-Checker-Star's director of operations, Bill Shranko, Craig's work led to camera installation in each of the company's cabs. Since then, Shranko says there has been at least a sixty percent decrease in attacks on drivers. Craig's hard work and advocacy has produced impressive results for driver safety.

In addition to driving a cab forty hours a week and his efforts to promote driver safety, Craig also found time to represent local drivers as a steward for the Industrial Technical Professional Employees Union, helping fired drivers to regain their jobs and making sure that drivers have access to important benefits, including health insurance. He led a campaign to raise thousands of dollars to aid the family of a colleague who was killed while on duty as a cab driver, and always offered to help colleagues and their families when in need.

Born in Los Angeles on October 14, 1949, Craig graduated from Shasta College in Northern California. He worked on newspapers in California and Oklahoma before moving to Las Vegas in 1978 and beginning work on the Trip Sheet magazine for cab drivers in the 1980s. He served as managing editor of the magazine and often wrote articles dealing with driver safety and furthering the fair treatment of drivers. His work helped turn the six-page newspaper of the '80s into the 48-page magazine of today, which reaches over 7,000 monthly readers.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Craig Harris for his outstanding service and representation of the taxi drivers of Las Vegas. His tireless efforts to help drivers and their families and his hard work as a driver, journalist, and advocate have greatly contributed to the safety of the profession, and he will be greatly missed.

ALTERNATIVE PLURIPOTENT
STEM CELL THERAPIES EN-
HANCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition of S. 2754, the Alternative Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act. I think we can all agree that stem-cell research holds tremendous promise for advances in health care for all Americans. Stem-cell research may one day lead to treatments for Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, arthritis, cancer, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, spinal-cord injuries, Lou Gehrig's disease, strokes, severe burns and many more diseases and injuries.

However, Mr. Speaker, five years ago, the President made a self-serving and short-sighted decision to limit federally funded embryonic stem-cell research to stem-cell lines that already existed. At that time, on August 9, 2001, the President promised 78 stem-cell lines would be available to federal researchers, yet five years later, there are at most, only 22 lines available. Even worse, Mr.

Speaker, many of these lines are contaminated with animal cells that make them unusable for human-therapeutic study.

So, Mr. Speaker, here we are half a decade later, and we are considering S. 2754 and another Republican bill, S. 3504, the Fetus Farming Prohibition Act. Let there be no mistake, Mr. Speaker, these proposals are nothing but a smoke screen; they were introduced to give political cover to Republican members who didn't vote for the embryonic stem-cell bill. I have no problem with measures that would encourage development of stem-cell lines from nonembryonic methods and prohibit embryo implantation for the purpose of deriving stem-cell lines. However, the real issue here is the President's policy that has prohibited federal funds for embryonic stem-cell research.

Let me be clear, neither of these Republican-sham bills is in any way a viable alternative to the measure the House passed last year, H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act. That legislation would allow federal funding for research on embryonic stem-cell lines regardless of the date on which they were derived. Researchers and scientists would be eligible to utilize their federal funds for research on a new stem-cell line as long as their work met the strict ethical guidelines contained in the bill. Those rules restrict stem-cell lines to embryos that were created originally for fertility purposes, and that are no longer needed. This legislation will take the President's political shackles off our researchers and scientists and allow them to expand the number of stem-cell lines that are eligible for federally funded research.

The Senate has finally acted, passing H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, this afternoon. So, there is now, finally, a historic opportunity to fund research that holds incredible promise, that could lead to incredible medical breakthroughs. So, what does the President do? He pledges yet again to veto embryonic stem-cell research legislation.

How out of touch can he be? Mr. Speaker, the President has promised to veto hope; hope for the millions of Americans who have cancer or Lou Gehrig's disease or diabetes or Parkinson's disease. He has promised to veto hope for victims of cancer and Alzheimer's disease. I am shocked but not surprised that President Bush has said that his very first veto will be to block this legislation. As usual, President Bush and his rightwing Republican allies are way out on the political margins. So, if you're counting votes Mr. President, mine will be to override. My vote will be for all those Americans who want us to put their needs first, and political paybacks, second. I will vote to override the President's shameful veto when the House again takes up H.R. 810, and I urge all my colleagues to vote to override the President's veto. This vote is the key vote showing whether Congress is genuinely committed to effective federally funded embryonic stem-cell research, and most of all, restoring hope to millions of sick Americans.

TRIBUTE TO ELLIS PARK

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of the House an historical day

for Thoroughbred Horse Racing in western Kentucky—the reopening of Ellis Park.

Since opening its gates for the first time in October of 1922, Ellis Park has been a significant part of Kentucky and Indiana's equine history. During those years the one and one eighth mile long track has provided horsemen and trainers a venue to showcase the sport they love.

Today, Ellis Park re-opens after suffering a devastating tornado on November 6th, 2005, that claimed the lives of 25 individuals in the surrounding community of Evansville, Indiana, and that delivered a direct hit to the Ellis Park race track damaging several buildings and killing some of the Thoroughbred Horses stabled at the track.

Today is one of triumph over tragedy as those who suffered so much move forward and continue to rebuild their community.

Mr. Speaker, the re-opening of historic Ellis Park under the new ownership of Kentucky Businessman Ron Geary promises a bright future for Thoroughbred Racing in western Kentucky and the tri-state region. Mr. Geary has committed to continue and build upon an 85 year history that has made Ellis Park a popular setting for friends and family to come together and enjoy the atmosphere created by the sight and sound of thoroughbreds thundering towards the finish line.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SANDY HEVERLY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Sandy Heverly for her dedication to victims of DUI accidents and their families.

Sandy became impassioned with the anti-DUI movement after she, her husband, children and mother were all injured as a result of an accident caused by a drunk driver. Following this incident, Sandy decided to try to help DUI victims and create awareness about the severity of DUI crimes. Since then, Sandy has been a driving force in the anti-DUI movement in Nevada, and has helped enhance awareness nationwide.

Through her positions as Executive Director and Co-Founder of STOP DUI, Executive Director of Nevada Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), and Nevada Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) State Coordinator, Sandy has spread the message about drunk driving throughout Nevada and the Nation. She has increased awareness by making over 1,000 anti-DUI presentations to students, civic organizations, and the gaming and liquor industries, and through various media movements, including the eight-year "Red Ribbon Campaign." With STOP DUI, Sandy established a Victim's Assistance Program to provide immediate financial assistance to DUI victims and their families, the only program of its kind in the Nation. She has also helped the bipartisan Congressional Stop DUI Caucus shed new light on the epidemic of drunk driving in America.

On July 19, 2006, Sandy's efforts to end drunk driving will be recognized as she is sworn in to the President's Advisory Commission for Drug-Free Communities. Her extensive knowledge and experience in bringing awareness to the anti-DUI cause will undoubtedly make Sandy an asset to the Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Sandy Heverly for her dedication and advocacy against drunk driving. As the co-chair of the Congressional Stop DUI Caucus, and father to a daughter injured by a drunk driver, ridding our nation's roads of these dangerous drivers is a cause that is very important to me. I congratulate Sandy for her appointment to the President's Advisory Commission for Drug-Free Communities, and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO KATHIE SIMPKINS

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and contributions of Kathie Simpkins from East Prairie, Missouri, who passed away on July 16, 2006. Kathie was a standout individual, a dedicated public servant, and a true friend. As the City Administrator for East Prairie, Kathie brought innovative ideas and unbridled enthusiasm to her job.

Kathie's sense of community is strong and deep-rooted, which has made her a successful individual in East Prairie. She was even recognized as East Prairie Woman of the Year in 2005. Kathie demonstrated the kind of pragmatic, problem-solving ability that is rare anywhere in the Nation and a real blessing to us in Southern Missouri. As City Administrator, Kathie was responsible for securing and administering more than \$12 million in state and federal grants.

Spending her life living in her hometown, Kathie was Southern Missouri through-and-through. She was a 1973 graduate of East Prairie High School and a 1978 graduate of Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, where she majored in business administration and marketing management. Kathie was a fixture at professional and other local organizations' meetings. She was always in search of another way to serve her neighbor.

Kathie Simpkins' family and friends have lost a dear part of their life, but the entire region has lost a tremendous advocate for Southern Missouri. It will take the hard work of many individuals to fill the void Kathie has left in our community. We are fortunate to have known Kathie and been inspired by her. She leaves a legacy of good management and great investment in the people of East Prairie.

I feel very fortunate to have known Kathie, and I want to ensure that she is remembered for her wealth of good works. She is a true model of civic pride and community service. Kathie Simpkins has made an immeasurable contribution to our district, our state, and our Nation. Thank you, Kathie, and God bless you.

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take a moment to welcome the entire Seton Hall community here to Capitol Hill for their annual 'Hall on the Hill' Reception. Let me thank Monsignor Sheeran for his leadership at Seton Hall, as well as his profound words given at invocation on the House floor this morning. Let me also congratulate my good friend Phil Thigpen for the honor he is receiving this evening. Phil has always been active in the community and clearly he has done his alma mater proud.

As Seton Hall University celebrates 150 years of service to our educational community, it is appropriate to take a moment to acknowledge what a remarkable achievement it is. Founded in 1856, Seton Hall University predates even the Civil War.

Throughout the years, Seton Hall University has educated our Nation's youth, providing them with the tools necessary to succeed in the ever-changing world. One of Seton Hall's greatest aspects is its versatility. With programs in business, law, medicine, and the humanities, students are free to explore all areas of academia. The John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations is world-renowned for its fantastic professors and unique alliance with the United Nations Association of the United States of America. Ranked in the top 125 national universities by US News and World Report, Seton Hall is truly a premier academic institution.

But, it is not just academics which makes Seton Hall University such a great institution. Being the largest Catholic University in the state of New Jersey, Seton Hall has a special focus on its ethical mission, teaching students not just how to be great scholars but great people. Part of this ethical mission includes tolerance and openness. In fact, few schools are so diverse and welcome students of so many different backgrounds. Its location in South Orange, New Jersey also allows the university to benefit from the diversity of its surroundings and proximity to New York City.

A Seton Hall University experience does not end at the doors of the classroom. Many Pirates have gone on to achieve great feats at both the collegiate and professional athletics level, including baseball player Craig Biggio and ESPN sportscaster, Dick Vitale. Students also have the opportunity to take part in over one hundred different extracurricular organizations to expand their interests and talents.

Educating our Nation's youth is a service to more than just the students who earn degrees. Universities such as Seton Hall provide a service to our entire community by training future generations of our Nation's leaders. It is an honor to celebrate this 150th anniversary of Seton Hall University and I hope that it will continue to educate our students for at least another 150 years.